

Indiana's environment changes every day. Our environment presents new challenges and places more responsibilities on Hoosiers to protect it, not only for themselves, but also for future generations.

The Annual State of the Environment Report 2001 gives Hoosiers a progress report. A measuring stick, if you will, with which they can gauge the quality of Indiana's environment from year to year. This

measuring stick is showing results.

Our state has made strides in cleaning up and protecting Indiana's environment during the past 15 years since we created the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Our air, land and water are cleaner and state government reaches out more than ever to educate Hoosiers about what they can do to prevent pollution. Much work remains.

But as the state works hard to address the environmental challenges we face today, we must always remember that stewardship of Indiana's environment begins in the home.

I believe Indiana is a beautiful place. Attached to one of the massive limestone pillars that support our statehouse dome is William Herschell's poem, "Ain't God Good to Indiana?" In part, it reads, "Folks, a feller never knows just how close he is to Eden till, sometimes, he ups and goes seekin' fairer, greener pastures than he has right here at home . . ."

Our home is, indeed, a truly beautiful place and each of us, from those of us in state government to every Hoosier in every corner of Indiana, must protect it.

Sincerely,



Frank O'Bannon,
Governor

